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5 April

ER-8-1088

3 April 1956

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Telephone conversation with Mansfield Sprague,
General Counsel of the Department of Defense

1. Mansfield Sprague called me this afternoon to give the results of conversations he has had with Fowler Hamilton, Chief Counsel, and Ramsay Potts, Assistant Counsel, of the Symington Committee. The following is not a firm plan, but is Mr. Sprague's understanding of the way their thinking is going.
2. The hearings will now open on Wednesday, 11 April, with public sessions for which they plan to call such officers as Admiral Carney, General Bradley, perhaps General Ridgeway, General Spaatz and General Walter Bedell Smith. The purpose of this session is to have an introduction that will impress the public with the seriousness of the problem. Mr. Potts apparently brought up the question of an intelligence briefing on Russian capabilities in the guided missiles field. It was his thought that the Committee would want to hear from Mr. Allen Dulles, and it is quite clear that neither the Committee staff nor the Defense Department (Mr. Sprague) favor testimony on this subject from an Air Force officer.
3. Mr. Sprague mentioned the possibility that Mr. Dulles might not be anxious to be brought into this hearing and suggesting that the briefing could be given by Admiral Radford. Apparently Mr. Potts returned to Mr. Dulles as the preferred witness, but the possibility of having Admiral Radford and Mr. Dulles appear together was discussed without conclusion. Apparently, however, it is the thought of Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Potts that any such intelligence briefing would be for the purpose of briefing the Senators in executive session and there would be no release to the press on this session.
4. Tentatively, they are planning for the intelligence briefing to start on Friday, April 13th.

LRH:blc

1 - DDC/DDCI

1 - OGCI 1 - AD/CI

1 - SA/DCI (Grogan) 1 - Legis. Counsel

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

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